

ECW

HARD CORE

WRESTLING

presents

BARRELY
LEGAL

Philadelphia, Pa.

April 13, 1997

LIVE ON PAY-PER-VIEW



Rob Van Dam



Guido Tommy



Beulah & Tony



Gangstas



Great Sasuke



Louie Spicolli



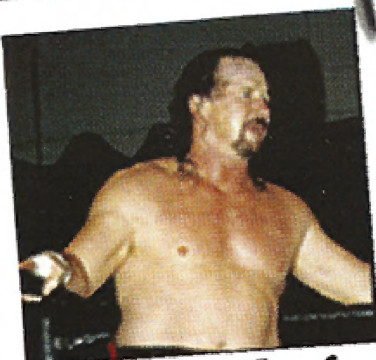
Shane



Bubba



Sandman



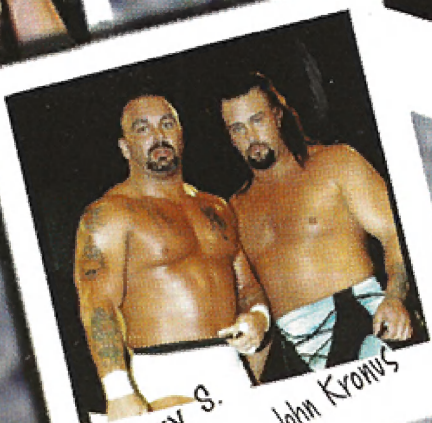
Terry Funk



Brian Lee



blue WORLD order



Perry S. John Kronus



Gran Hamada



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THE HISTORY OF THE ECW . . .

IT'S BEEN SAID THAT NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION. To one wrestling fan, necessity was defined by the product being presented by Titan Sports and Turner Broadcasting. **TOD GORDON** yearned for a return to the wrestling he had loved as a young fan: fast paced, action-packed, and most importantly, unique from the sports entertainment being provided by the self-proclaimed "Big Two".

ENTER EDDIE GILBERT. Known by many hardcore fans as "The King of Philadelphia" due to his famous barbed-wire battles with Cactus Jack and others, Gilbert was hired by Tod to coordinate ECW talent. He had also coordinated for what many considered to be the ancestor of ECW, the by-then defunct UWF.

The date was June 16, 1993 and the ECW name, as we know and respect it today, came into being. Gilbert's short-lived stint as booker came to an end, though, on September 18, 1993, as philosophical differences with Gordon became irreparable. Gordon hired the man who is now known as the impetus to ECW's success ... Mr. Paul Heyman. Known to all wrestling fans as **PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY**, Heyman brought two key attributes to the look: a vision of a new style of wrestling, and a burning desire to surpass the offerings of Titan and Turner. Building on a crew of young and largely unknown group of talent, Heyman set a course to take wrestling where it had never been ... **TO THE EXTREME!!!**

With no maps to guide him, Heyman played on his talents' strengths. They were, and are, hungry, tough, talented, and hardcore. Laying their bodies on the line like no wrestlers had ever done, they have left a legacy of such guest cards as "**NOVEMBER TO REMEMBER**" (the yearly premiere event of the promotion), "**HARDCORE HEAVEN**", "**HOSTILE CITY SHOWDOWN**", and others too numerous to mention. Original ECW stalwarts such as **SABU**, **SANDMAN**, **TOMMY DREAMER**, **MIKEY WHIPWRECK**, **SHANE DOUGLAS**, **TAZ**, **THE PIT BULLS**, **JOEY STYLES** and yes, the Legend **TERRY FUNK**, seemed to out themselves, month by month building the legacy that has become ECW.

Success has a price though, and it appeared that ECW's very success could lead to its own demise. Some stars were lured away from ECW by the other promoters. Undaunted, Heyman quickly hired a **NEW GENERATION** of talent that has secured the power of ECW's lure. The **ELIMINATORS**, **RAVEN**, **THE DUDLEYS**, **THE GANGSTAS**, **STEVIE RICHARDS** and the **BWO**, The **FBI**, **LANCE STORM**, **JOEL GERTNER**, **ROB VAN DAM**, **BEULAH**, **FRANCINE**, **BRYAN LEE**, and **CHRIS CANDIDO** have ensured that ECW's stable of wrestlers is second to none in the entire world.

No history of ECW would be complete without mentioning the foundation of our success. All of the blood, sweat and injuries the wrestlers endure would be meaningless if it wasn't appreciated. Week after week, as fans show an appreciation that is unparalleled in the wrestling world. Loud, boisterous and smart, you are the life force behind ECW, **AND WE THANK YOU.**

Tonight we see both a culmination and a beginning. Our history, though relatively brief, peaks where many not-so-savvy pundits have said we'd never go: Pay-Per-View! It is a testament to the perseverance of one man, dozens of wrestlers, and thousands of fans. Tonight is also a beginning that will take PPV where no other promoter would dare venture - **TO THE EXTREME.** Tonight we show the world why we're **BARELY LEGAL.**

First up on our card tonight,
ECW presents
MICHINOKU
PRO WRESTLING

It's the perfect, or better yet, **EXTREME** combination. Wrestlers from Japan's fastest growing wrestling company make their debut in the United States' fastest growing wrestling promotion.

Michinoku Pro dazzled ECW fans with six-man bouts on ECW's February Massachusetts shows. The contests pit The Great Sasuke with partners Gran Hamada and Gran Naniwa vs. arch rivals **Terry Boy**, **Dick Togo** and **Taka Michinoku**. The teams split the two Massachusetts bouts. The extreme rubber match is scheduled tonight at **BARELY LEGAL**.

Michinoku Pro, also known in Japan as Northeastern Wrestling, was founded in September of 1993. By using primarily junior heavyweights, Michinoku Pro developed a style of fast-paced risktaking wrestling that took towns in northern Japan by storm. The style, best described as a combination of high-flying and lucha libre, brought its wrestlers success in Mexico where they regularly travel.

The company first gained Japan's national attention in 1994 when top star **Gran Sasuke** defeated Jushin Liger to go to the finals of the inaugural Super J Cup. Since that time, Michinoku's open door policy has allowed its grapplers to compete at



Michinoku Pro, from left to right: Gran Naniwa, The Great Sasuke, and Gran Hamada



MICHINOKU PRO WRESTLING HITS THE STATES!!

from left to right:

Terry Boy, Dick Togo, and Taka Michinoku

Kawasaki Stadium shows which draw more than 50,000 spectators, and Tokyo Dome cards seen by over 60,000 fans, including the April show that saw Sasuke pin Liger for the IWGP junior heavyweight title.

Michinoku Wrestling's popularity grew to such heights that its first ever card in Tokyo on October 10, 1996 drew 8,000 people. The six-man main event held in Massachusetts that ECW fans witnessed in February quickly became the hottest feud in the entire Japanese wrestling world by headlining shows that sell out 50,000 seat buildings. Michinoku Pro's momentum was given a huge boost recently when it gained a national television show.

The feud between **Great Sasuke** and the duo of **Teoh** (also known as **Terry Boy**) and **Togo** began when Teoh and Togo convinced Sasuke's then-partner **Shiryo** to join their team, known as Kalentai-Gun. After Sasuke's first match against Shiryo, the entire Kalentai-Gun brutally attacked Sasuke. Regarded as one of the elite Junior Heavyweights, Sasuke is easily recognized in the ring by his black ring attire, including a black, red and white mask. Sasuke's career highlight came on August 5, 1996 when he pinned Ultimate Dragon to capture the first Eight Super Junior Tournament in his homeland.

Watch for **Naniwa**, known for his crab-like mask, to execute one of the best top rope Frankensteiners in the business. **Hamada**, a veteran pioneer of high-flying moves, wears simple black trunks.

Togo, who usually sports long blue tights, is regarded as the strongest in the promotion partly because of his awesome powerslam. **Teoh**, with blond hair and white trunks, is a stocky competitor with an arsenal of flying moves. Opponents must beware of Teoh and Togo's double-team spike piledriver on the floor. **Taka** is regarded as one of the sport's premier prospects due to his spring-board moves.

Both these teams enter **BARELY LEGAL** with supremacy in the States on the line!
All of these athletes want to show the world what Michinoku Pro is all about!

WORLD TAG-TEAM TITLE MATCH

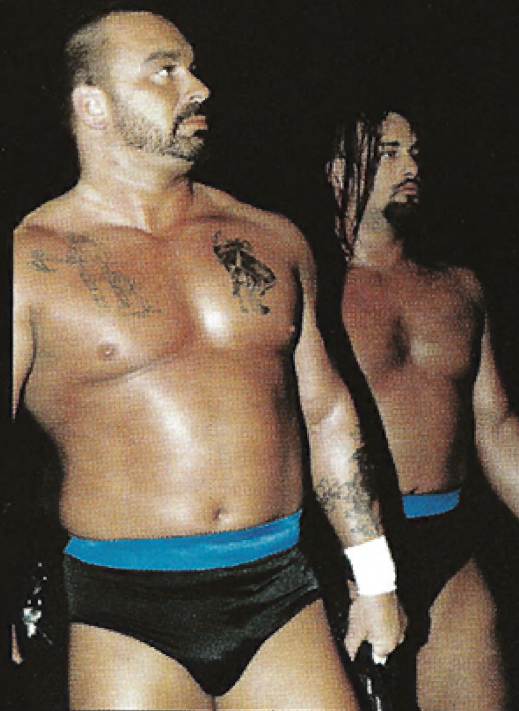
THE DUDLEYS VS. THE ELIMINATORS

In the annals of tag-team wrestling, few teams have become synonymous with the term "tag-team." Simply defined, it means to work as a cohesive unit. The sum of the team should truly be greater than its individual parts. Close your eyes and remember the great tag-teams of era past... The Road Warriors, The Midnight Express, The British Bulldogs, and The Rock & Roll Express. Each was described by the above-stated definition.

Now, open your eyes. Stare at the team in the ring. They're known universally as the best tag-team in our sport today — **The Eliminators**. Truly, their sum is greater than their awesome individual parts. **Perry Saturn** combines power with skill and will also take flight like a cruiserweight, even though he weighs in at 237 pounds. His partner **John Kronus** has that rare combination of power and grace. Able to press super-heavyweights over his head, Kronus will then show catlike agility that any diehard fan will appreciate. Together, The Eliminators have elevated tag-team wrestling to an art form. And like any great artist they place their signature on their completed masterpieces. They spell it **T-O-T-A-L E-L-I-M-I-N-A-T-I-O-N**.

Their opponents, **The Dudleys**, wrested the ECW World Tag-Team Titles from The Eliminators only last month. Unable to replicate the grace and artistry of The Eliminators, The Dudleys rely on their sheer strength and unique brawling style. They'll take your best shots and endure the pain inflicted on them just to land one good Dudley Punch, or swing of a chair, or deadliest of all, the **3-D**: the **Dudley Death**

Drop. Indeed, it was that very move that elevated **Bubba Dudley** and **D-Von Dudley** from tough guys to champions. Thus, **BARELY LEGAL** sets up incredible move against unbelievable move. This program could easily read "Total Elimination" vs. "The Dudley Death Drop." It is, then, a chess game. Each move hopefully leading each team to their coup de grace. Whichever team hits its signature move first will be able to shout the sweetest of terms in the squared circle - Checkmate! The Eliminators vs. The Dudleys. Move vs. Move. Pride vs. Attitude. Champion vs. Challenger. Which team is which??



WORLD TV TITLE MATCH

SHANE DOUGLAS VS. PIT BULL #2

"The thrill of victory ... the agony of defeat." This simple collection of words epitomizes the glory and tragedy that is rooted in this - "the most famous bingo hall" in the world.

The basic philosophy of **ECW** has been, and will always be, to take wrestling away from the Hollywood lights and put it back into the ring of athleticism. Like all impact sports there comes a price for the ferocity of competition. In the blink of an eye, a promising or even stellar career can be felled by injury. This is **Gary Wolfe's** story.

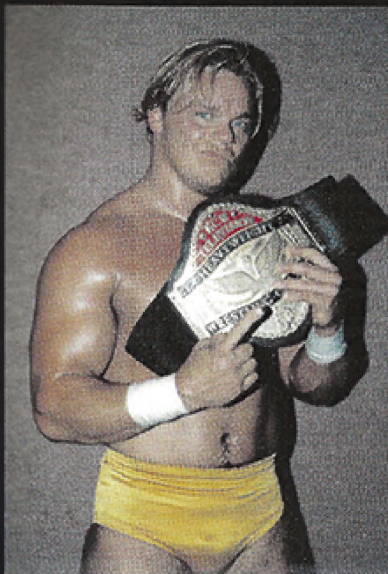
Tonight was to be the night he would show the largest paid viewing audience in **ECW's** history that most primal of emotions — **REVENGE**. But Fate delivered a crushing blow to Wolfe's desire. He now sits, as a spectator, to watch and wonder. He will watch his friend and partner, **Pit Bull #2**, step into his match as his replacement. He will wonder if he will ever return to the only place he calls home — the squared circle.



As one of the most powerful wrestlers **ECW** has ever showcased, **Pit Bull #2** has been clear in his message to **The Franchise, Shane Douglas**. He will settle for nothing more than total disgrace of the "most hated man in sports." He wants to crush Douglas and his temptress **Francine** and strip them of their most cherished possession, the **ECW** World TV Title.



For his part, The Franchise has been typically vocal. "I will use **BARELY LEGAL** to showcase to one ass (McMahon) what he missed out on. To a redneck (Turner) what he could've had. And to **ECW** fans what they're so damned fortunate to have ... the world's greatest wrestler."



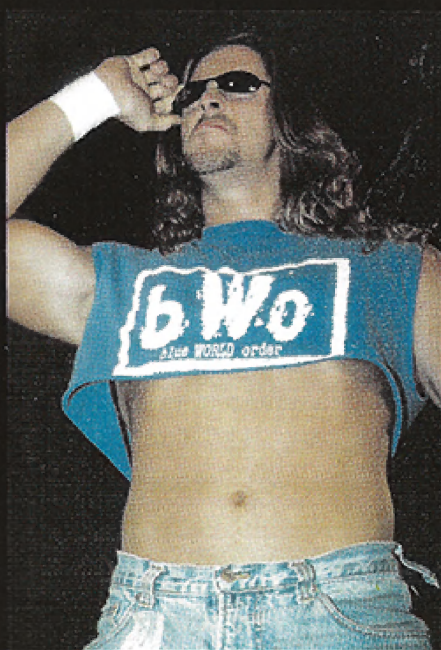
With Francine by his side and aided by the formidable Triple Threat, The Franchise has been virtually unstoppable and incredibly obnoxious. He has laid claim to the **ECW** World TV Title as "... my belt, my belt, my belt." Their videotaped message to the injured Wolfe has been nothing less than despicable. Apparently, The Franchise, a former history teacher, has overlooked the credo of his former line of work. "Those who fail



to learn history lessons are doomed to repeat its mistakes." Maybe The Franchise and Francine should heed the one lesson that goes "let sleeping dogs lie", for tonight, a Pit Bull is awake and ready to make The Franchise pay for his actions.

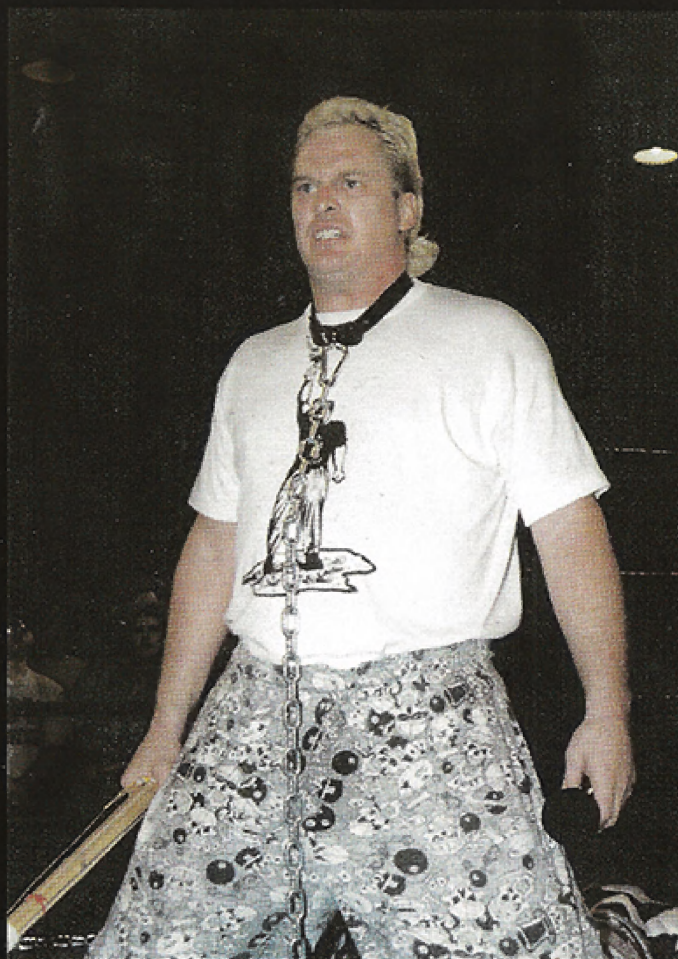
THREE WAY DANCE

TERRY FUNK
VS. SANDMAN VS.
BWO STEVIE RICHARDS



Success in other places is summed up in the adage "Two men enter, one man leaves." Here in **ECW**, success, like the product, is measured in more extreme terms, as "Three men enter, one man survives"! It's called the **3-Way Dance**, and originated here in **ECW**, because those brave enough to enter tonight leave their sights set on a much richer prize — the **ECW** World Heavyweight Title. To add fuel to the fire, all three have very personal reasons to want to face the man currently possessing that prestigious belt ... **RAVEN**.

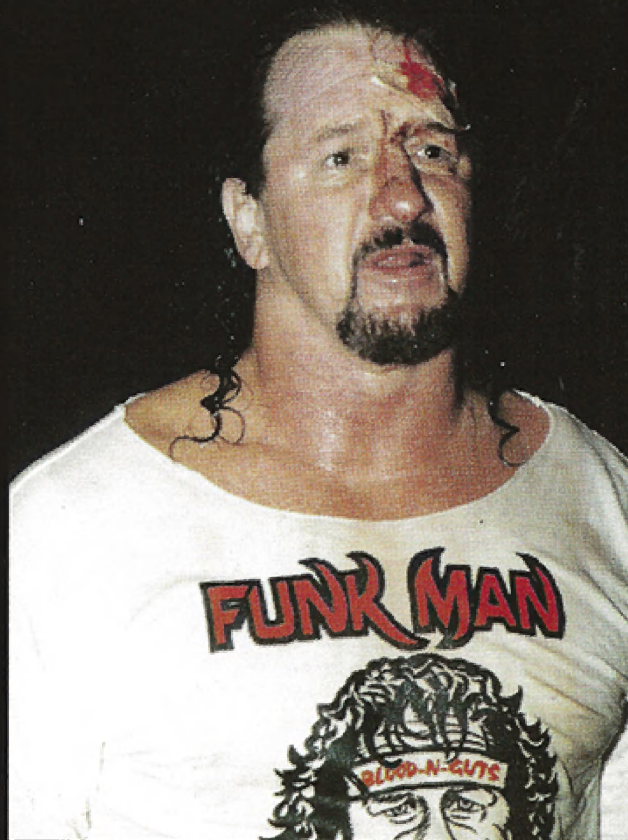
Stevie Richards, a member of the phenomena known as the **blue WORLD Order**, has been



demeaned and demoralized for two and a half years by Raven. Possessing a lethal finisher in the "**Stevie Kick**", Richards certainly has the tools to dethrone his former mentor. The question is, can he overcome the psychological edge Raven has over him?

Can **Sandman**, ECW's beer drinking, cigarette-smoking cane-swinging icon once and for all settle his issues with Raven? Having lost the World Title to Raven on two occasions, Sandman also watched his family disintegrate at the hands of the champion. Stripped of his dignity, The Sandman has come out swinging the cane that's made him our icon. He's won back what mattered to him most — his son, Tyler. Yet Sandman wants to best Raven for the one stable thing in the Gen-Xer's life, the **ECW** World Heavyweight Title.

Finally, there's **Terry Funk**. What can be said of a man who's been through enough wars to cripple an entire stable of "sports entertainers"? The Funker brings his Hall of Fame career to its pinnacle tonight. The **3 Way Dance** will either be the swan song to that fabled career or it will be its epiphany. He has said privately that he is "running on fumes." He has said that his body cannot go on. Yet there is a triumvirate of reasons Funk will enter the most grueling of **ECW** matches ... his family, his fans, and his father, who passed away in his arms over 20 years ago. To the Legend, this is his holy quest: to survive the **3 Way Dance**, and get one more shot at being called the Best in the World.



WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE

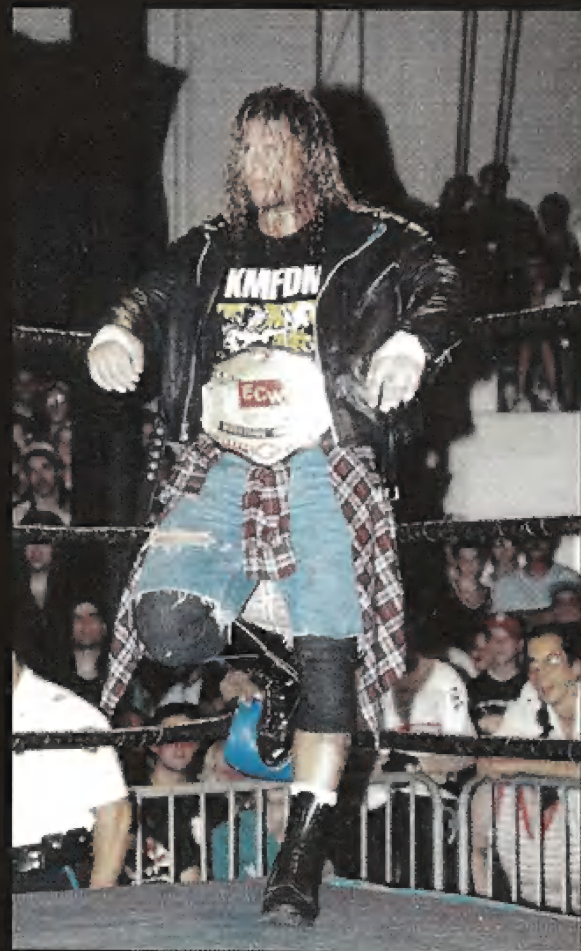
RAVEN
VS. THE
3 WAY DANCE
WINNER

Few men ever rise to the level to be called a champion. In a sport of thousands, a mere handful ever earn the right to have their names emblazoned with the likes of Rogers, Thesz, or Sammartino. Those who do all possess one particular quality — the ability to survive.



As the challenger you are the hunter: you fight according to your strengths and attempt to pull your opponent away from his. As the champion you become the hunted: you can no longer rest on your strengths because here in **ECW** all challengers bring


skills that can lead to upset. Thus, as champion, you must be a chameleon; able to



mirror your opponent's style and strengths. In doing so you make your opponents fight the one person they've never fought — **THEMSELVES!**



That is the very key to the success of the **ECW** World Heavyweight Champion. **Raven** has that ability. Tonight he has positioned himself in the enviable position of facing any one of three very tough challengers ... after they've been through what will certainly be a brutal contest of mind, body and spirit — **The 3 Way Dance.**



BIGG GRU MAT EVI

TAZ

No two competitors personify the essence of what ECW's all about more than **Sabu** and **Taz**. Remember earlier we told you Paul Heyman aimed to build his extreme vision on the foundation of up-till-then unknown wrestlers. Before **ECW**, neither Taz nor Sabu had ever been recognizable on a national level. Nonetheless, each man possesses skills that represent the two (if you'll pardon the expression) **EXTREMES** of **ECW**: unbridled, violent poetry in motion (Sabu) and raw power topped with legitimate wrestling prowess (Taz). In the unpredictable world of **ECW** there are few altruisms. The term "lasting friendship" is but an oxymoron here, where competition has supplemented the politics of other places.

The relationship between these two men has been a casualty of that premise. Both have risen to the upper echelons of the "Extreme Universe" and neither is willing to go back to the relative obscurity they knew before their success here. It has been a match three and a half years in the coming. The paths of these two men, at times interceding, are now on a collision course. Like the



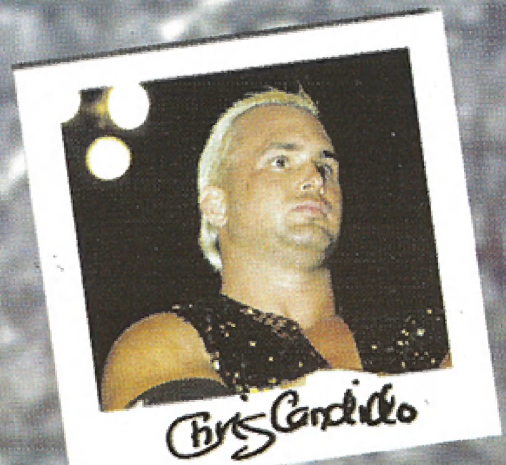
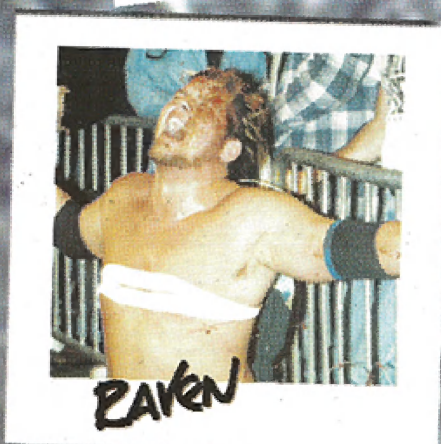
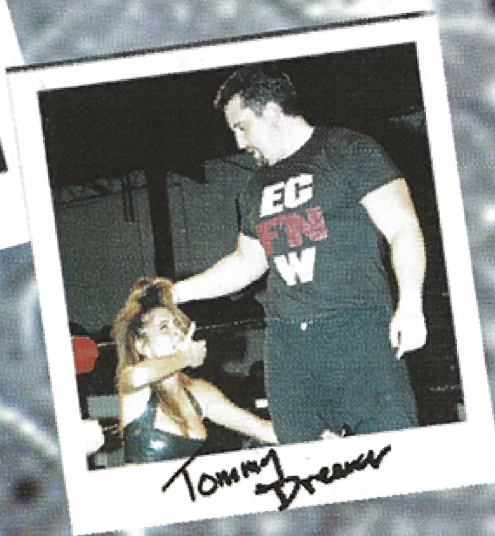
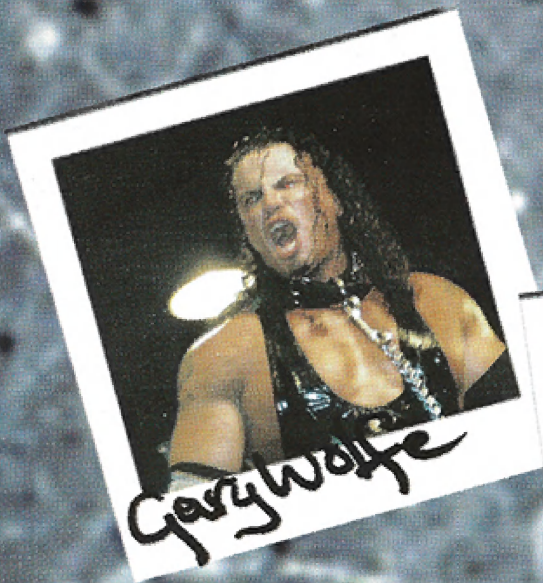
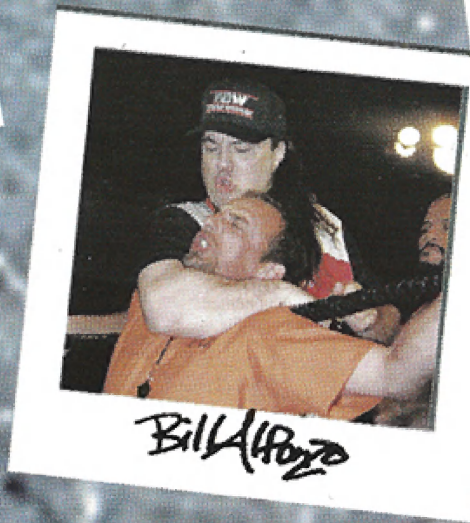
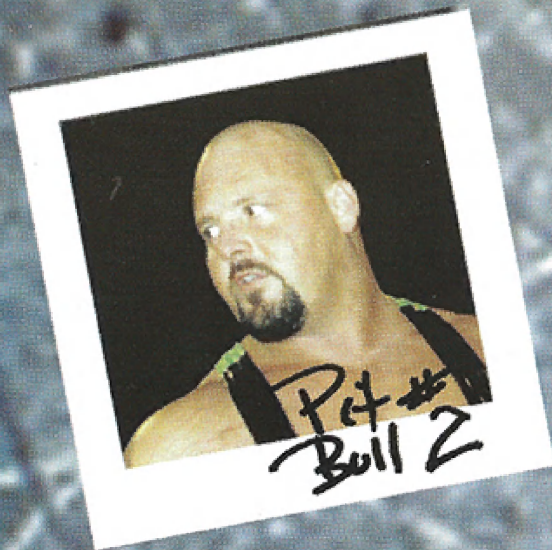
HEST
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TCH
ER

vs. **SABU**

proverbial immovable object meeting the irresistible force, neither Sabu nor Taz will be the same when this one's all said and done.

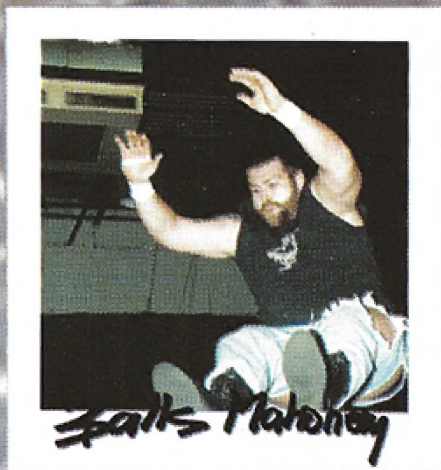
Taz's goal is simple. He wants to consume Sabu in his all-consuming Path of Rage. However, Taz's seemingly invincible armor has shown a weakness of late: an explosive temper that has proven that if rattled, he can be pulled out of his game-plan and become reckless.

And Sabu, the most reckless wrestler since the original Sheik, has shown a calm restraint lately that must unnerve even Taz. Last month, here at the new mecca of excitement the **ECW** Arena, Sabu exhibited his version of the T-Bone TazPlex followed by his version of Taz's feared Tazmission. It was his way of saying to Taz, The talking is all done. *LET'S DO IT!!!* It's finally time for the Path of Rage to face the most homicidal, genocidal, suicidal man our sport has known ... watch out for the falling debris.

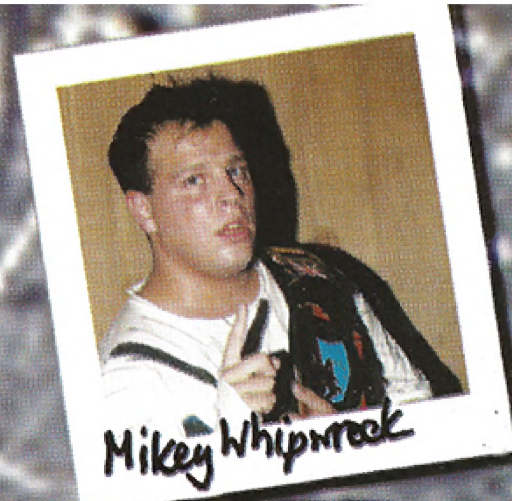




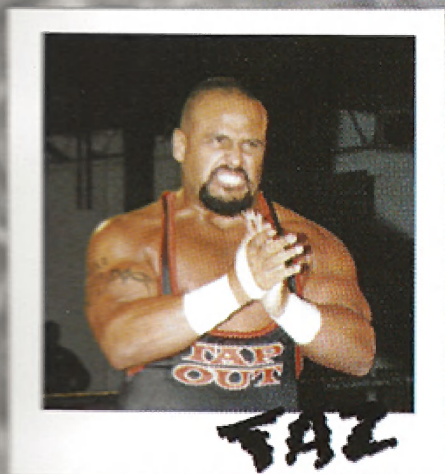
Commissioner Tod Gordon



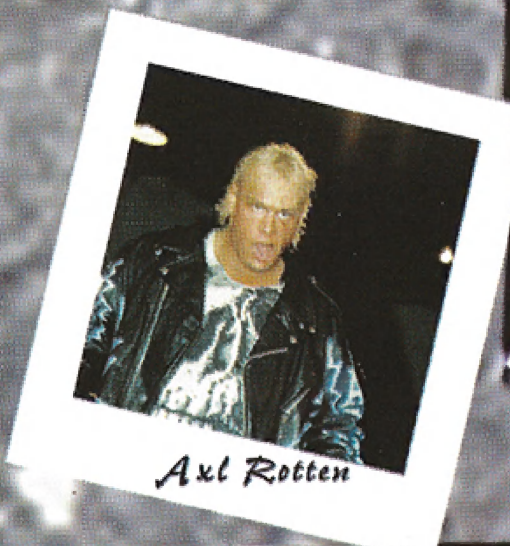
Balls Mahoney



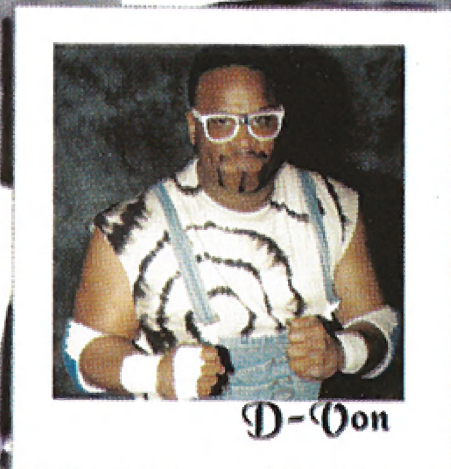
Mikey Whipwreck



Foz



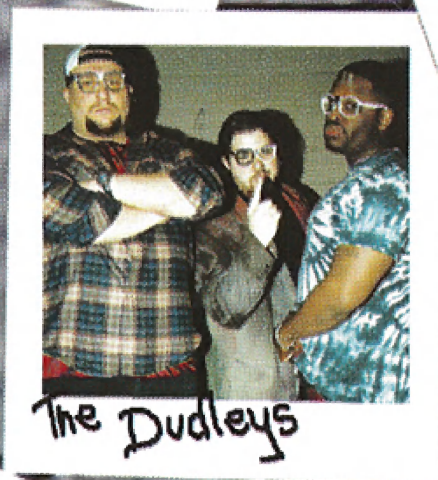
Axl Rotten



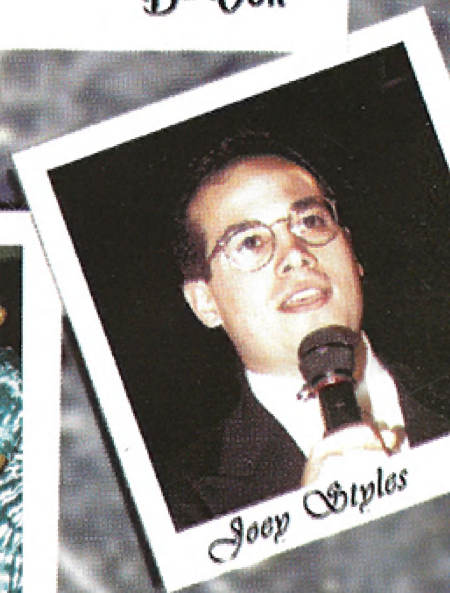
D-Von



Francine



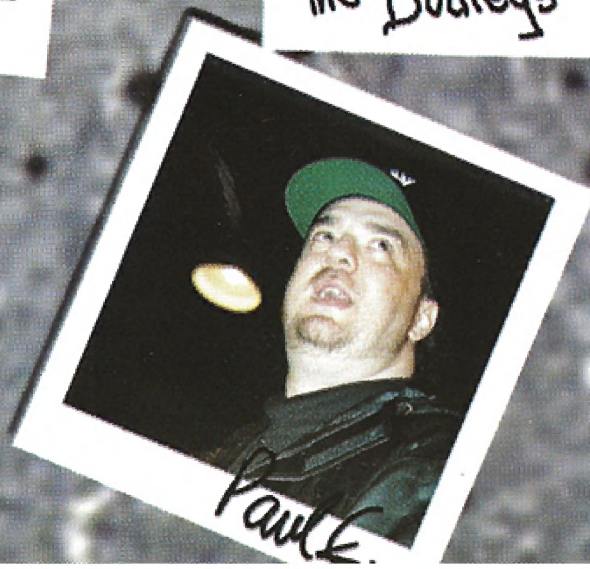
The Dudleys



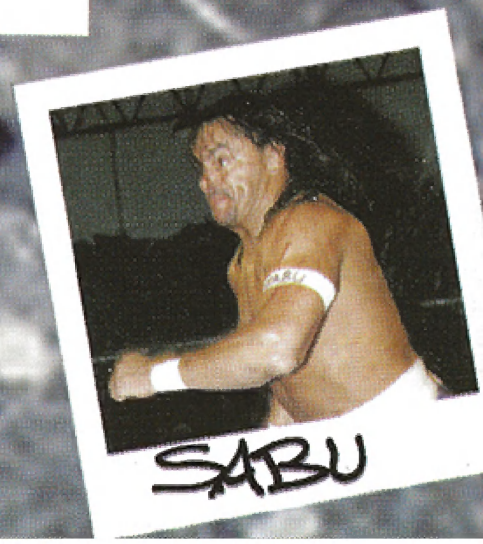
Joey Styles



Ted DiBiase



Paul E.



SABU

LIVE
ON
PAY-PER-VIEW!



LIVE
ON
PAY-PER-VIEW!

CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

Presents

BARELY LEGAL

~~ECW~~ Arena April 13, 1997

Philadelphia, Pa.

BIGGEST GRUDGE MATCH EVER

ORANGE & BLACK ATTACK

HOMICIDAL SUICIDAL

TAZ

vs.

SABU

WITH BILL ALFONSO

GENOCIDAL

THREE WAY DANCE

WINNER GETS WORLD TITLE SHOT

TERRY FUNK VS. SANDMAN VS. BWO STEVIE RICHARDS

WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE MATCH

RAVEN

vs.

WINNER OF

THREE WAY DANCE

(CHAMPION)

WORLD TV TITLE MATCH

THE FRANCHISE

vs.

PITBULL 2

WITH FRANCINE

(CHALLENGER)

(CHAMPION)

WORLD TAG-TEAM TITLE MATCH

**THE
DUDLEYS**

vs.

**THE
ELIMINATORS**

(CHAMPIONS)

(CHALLENGERS)

INTERNATIONAL SIX MAN MATCH

MICHINOKU PRO WRESTLING

**GREAT SASUKE
GRAN HAMADA
GRAN NANIWA**

vs.

**DICK TOGO
TERRY BOY
TAKA MICHINOKU**

Experience the Difference !!